

Administration of Jimmy Carter, 1980

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railroads to make the transition to other employment. As a result, the reorganization of Rock Island lines, so vital to Midwest shippers, should be facilitated.

Finally, the act authorizes expansion and revision of the existing financing program which provides funds to help our Nation's railroads. It is my expectation that these Federal funds be directed to the maximum extent possible at rail restructuring projects, and the Secretary of Transportation has assured me that he will give the highest priority to using the funds provided in that manner.

All Americans will benefit from the Staggers Rail Act of 1980.

NOTE: As enacted, S. 1946 is Public Law 96-448, approved October 14.

### Hostage Relief Act of 1980

Statement on Signing H.R. 7085 Into Law.  
October 14, 1980

The tragic circumstances which make the Hostage Relief Act of 1980 so necessary have occurred all too often in recent years. In particular, the holding of 52 Americans in Tehran has made this legislation urgent.

I am pleased that speedy and thoughtful action on the part of both Houses of Congress has brought to my desk a bill which will go a long way toward alleviating some of the burdens faced by the families of those held hostage and will ensure that adequate medical treatment will be provided to hostages and to their loved ones when they return.

All those held captive in Iran and others in similar situations since November 4, 1979, irrespective of whether they are in the Armed Forces or are civilian

Government employees, will receive the education and health benefits provided for in this bill. Additionally, all of the hostages will be excused from Federal taxes for the period of time spent in captivity.

With the enactment of this legislation, we take a small but extremely important step toward providing a measure of compensation for the severe hardships hostages and their families endure. I am extremely pleased to sign this bill into law.

NOTE: As enacted, H.R. 7085 is Public Law 96-449, approved October 14.

### Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1981

Statement on Signing S. 2597 Into Law.  
October 14, 1980

It is with pleasure that I sign into law the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1981. This legislation authorizes the appropriation of funds for our Intelligence Community. It is essential that I and those who aid me in the formulation of our Nation's foreign policy make our decisions on the basis of accurate information about the capabilities and intentions of other countries and of forces that shape world events. I am pleased that the Congress has followed my recommendation and authorized sufficient funds to ensure that we continue to have the best intelligence service possible.

I am also pleased to note that this legislation contains authority for the payment of a death gratuity to the surviving dependents of intelligence personnel killed overseas as a result of hostile or terrorist activities or in connection with

an intelligence activity having a substantial element of risk. I pray that, in future, situations will not arise that necessitate use of this provision. It is important, however, that our intelligence officers overseas, who daily sacrifice comforts of home to serve their country under sometimes difficult and dangerous circumstances, know that we as a Nation stand behind them and will provide the welfare of their families should a strike.

In addition to providing funding for a strong intelligence service, S. 2597 contains legislation that modifies the Hughes-Ryan amendment, which establishes, for the first time in this comprehensive system for congressional oversight of intelligence activities, legislation, which will help to ensure that U.S. intelligence activities are carried out effectively and in a manner that respects individual rights and liberties, a very important part of the comprehensive intelligence charter on which this administration and the Congress have worked over 2 years. Unfortunately, the other legislative matters prevented passage of the charter thus far in this administration.

The oversight legislation that passed does not seek to alter the responsibilities and authorities of the executive and legislative branches, but rather codifies the current practice and relationship that has developed between this administration and the Senate and House intelligence committees over the past 3 years. This intent is evident in the language of the bill itself and in its legislative history that stands behind it.

It is noteworthy that in carrying out current practice and relating to intelligence legislation preserves an important element of flexibility for the President and the executive branch. It does so in